

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claim 1 has been revised to specify that when (B) is Cu or Zn, then (A) is a chitosan derivative. Support for compositions containing chitosan derivatives and Cu or Zn is found in the specification on page 8, lines 9-20. Claims 3, 5 and 11 contain minor revisions. Support for glycerated chitosan (in Claim 5) is found on page 8, line 15 of the specification. New Claims 13-18 find support in the original claims and on page 8 of the specification. Accordingly, the Applicants do not believe that any new matter has been added.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as lacking enablement for a compound which does not contain a carboxyl-containing molecules.

Objection—Claims

Claims 5 and 11 were objected to. The Applicants traverse the objection to Claim 5, because Claim 1 defines (B) as a metal comprising one of the metals in the Markush group. That is, Claim 1 recites “(B) a metal compound comprising”. Nevertheless, Claim 5 has been amended to more explicitly track the wording in Claim 1. Therefore, these objections are now moot.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al., Bokin Bobai 23(12): 741 (Abstract). This document refers to aqueous solutions containing “chitosan-zinc salts (CZS)” or “chitosan-copper salts (CCS)”. This rejection is moot in view of the amendment of Claim 1 above.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wang et al., Guangpuxue Yu Guangu Fenxi 19(6): 817 (Abstract). This document refers to dilute formic acid aqueous solution containing “chitosan-Zn(II) complexes”. This rejection is moot in view of the amendment of Claim 1 above.

Rejection—Section 18

The Applicants believe the remaining rejections have been withdrawn, but respectfully request confirmation that the rejection in Section 18 (Official Action, page 6) has been withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. An early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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